

**Final Council Motion on IR/IU for Flatfish**  
**Sunday, October 06, 2002**

The Council adopted Alternative 3 to delay implementation of IR/IU flatfish regulations for the BSAI until June 1, 2004, with final Council action scheduled in April 2003. However, if possible, superceding regulations would be implemented prior to the end of the exemption period.

Further, the Council will initiate analyses on 4 trailing amendments described below. Amendments C and D would be on an expedited time line (i.e., final action by April 2003) and Amendments A and B would be accomplished as soon as practicable. Amendments A through C would be limited to the BSAI fisheries. Amendment D would apply to the BSAI and GOA fisheries.

1. Amendment A: Establish Prohibited Species Bycatch Reduction Cooperatives
  - a. Decision Point 8 –The IR/IU Technical Committee further define options for transferability – specifically, can catch history be separated from the vessel, from the LLP and can catch history be subdivided. Further, the Committee provide options for second generation entry into bycatch cooperatives in the event a limited number of coops form, controlling all available PSC.
2. Amendment B: Create Bycatch Caps (Discard Caps) for the Flatfish Fisheries
  - a. No changes
3. Amendment C: A Minimum Groundfish Retention Standard as an Alternative to Flatfish Retention Requirements
  - a. Decision Point 5:
    1. Eliminate Section 5.1: Daily
    2. Add Decision Point 6: Can the groundfish retention limits be measured across groups or pools?
      - 6.1 Groundfish retention limits can be measured across pools
      - 6.2 Groundfish retention limits cannot be measured across pools
    3. Add Decision Point 7: Does a general groundfish retention standard, that isn't species specific, supercede the current pollock and cod retention standard?
      - 7.1 For all fisheries
      - 7.2 For all non-pollock fisheries
      - 7.3 All fisheries excluding pollock and cod
4. Amendment D: Establish a regulatory process for the routine review of flatfish bycatch in the BSAI and GOA fisheries and the exemption of fisheries with less than a 5% bycatch of IR/IU flatfish from flatfish retention and utilization rules. Similarly, fisheries that exceed this standard would be included in the flatfish IR/IU program. The development of this analysis will address NOAA-GC issues associated with frameworked regulatory measures and identify options to best meet the Council intent for timely accountability of fisheries with respect to flatfish bycatch.

In the analysis for Amendment C, the following language should be included in the preamble. "The purpose of this amendment is to encourage fishermen to avoid unwanted catch, increase utilization of fish that are taken, and thus reduce discards of whole fish to the extent practicable (1997 IR/IU EA/RIR/IRFA).